

REMARKS

Claims 1-23, 25-28, 31-33, 35-42, 44-45, 48, and 50-52 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-23, 25-27, 33, 35-41, 45, 48, and 51 are allowed. Claim 28 is amended herein to include the subject matter of claims 29, 30, and 49. Claim 42 is amended herein to include the subject matter of claim 43. Claims 50 and 52 are amended herein to be in independent form. No new matter is added. Claims 29, 30, 43, and 49 are cancelled herein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 & § 103

Claims 28-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Willard (U.S. Pat. No. 6,508,502). Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willard in view of Antreich (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0042751). Claims 42 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willard in view of Gotz et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,211,718). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Notwithstanding, claim 28 is amended herein to include the subject matter of claims 29, 30, and 49. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 28 is patentable over the prior art of record and allowance of claim 28 is requested. Claims 31 and 32 depend from claim 28 and, therefore, for at least this same reason are also patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested.

Claim 42 is amended herein to include the subject matter of claim 43. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 42 is patentable over the prior art of record. Claim 44

depends from claim 42 and, therefore, for at least the same reasons stated above with reference to claim 42 is also patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 43, 49, 50, and 52 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 28 is amended herein to include the subject matter of claims 29, 30, and 49. As such, it is believed that claim 28 is now in condition for allowance. Claim 50 is amended herein to be in independent form including the subject matter of the base claim and the intervening claims. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 50 is in condition for allowance. Claim 42 is amended herein to include the subject matter of claim 43. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 42 is in condition for allowance. Claim 52 is amended herein to be in independent form. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 52 is in condition for allowance. Claims 31, 32, and 44 each depend from one of claims 28 and 42. Thus, allowance of claims 28, 31, 32, 42, 44, 50, and 52 is requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office

Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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